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EDITORIAL NOTES.

About the end of September the San Francisco morning papers worked themselves into a fine frenzy over the fact that quack "doctors" and **SPASM OF** abortionists existed. This frenzy was **VIRTUE!** not noticeably caused by ingrowing newspaper virtue; it was due to public indignation upon the disclosure of the murder of Eva Swan. Were the murdered girl alive, she could probably say to one or more of these virtuously indignant papers: "*I saw the advertisement in your paper.*" These dailies clamored vociferously to the County and State Medical Societies and to the Board of Examiners, "What are you going to do to stop this sort of thing?" But did they ask themselves what *they* were going to do to help stop it? Nay! Nay! Quackery and quack abortionists of the dirty, murder type, live and thrive only because the newspapers will publish their advertisements. Let us, for example, take the three morning papers of the day the murder was published—September 24, 1910. We may eliminate the *Sun*, because it is young and has not published any "medical" advertising; it has also announced that it will not publish any of this stuff. The *Examiner* of that date—September 24th—on the front page had the account of the abortion-murder; on page 13 it printed ten advertisements of abortionists. Such phrases as these are to be found in the ten advertisements: "All women's ailments . . . everything used care-

fully sterilized which ensures absolute safety." "I never had a failure; I use antiseptic precautions." "Ladies, when worried about your condition . . . consult one who never fails." "My sterilization (*sic*) ensures perfect safety." "Most skillful and painless methods. Antiseptic precautions." The *Call* for the same date also contained on the first page the abortion-murder story, and on page 15 some interesting advertisements; especially interesting in the light of the awful indignation which the *Call* expressed later, markedly on September 30th! The *Call* was not so successful, in the business way, as the *Examiner*; it could not divide so much of this blood-money; it had only four advertisements of abortionists. But the *Call's* language is no less interesting than that of the *Examiner*. We are edified to read: "Ladies . . . if you are worried about your condition . . . no pain, no danger, no lost time. . . . Call on me in privacy and be restored to freedom from care and worry." The *Call* of September 25th had five such advertisements; a day or two later it became very virtuously indignant—and the abortion advertisements were dropped! The *Chronicle* contained and contains no such advertisements; that paper dropped them out many months ago, when the San Francisco County Medical Society made a campaign against these advertising abortionists and got the postoffice department to notify the papers.

This is truly an honest business! The money of the quack, the charlatan and the abortionist must be sadly needed in the offices of the **HONEST** *Examiner* and the *Call*! And then **BUSINESS.** that wonderful indignation, later on, when the public protested! Wonderful, gentlemen; truly wonderful! These parasites can only live by their advertising; the papers take their money, print their advertisements, and then have the magnificent impudence to turn to the medical profession and ask why the medical societies do not stop it! Was ever anything more grotesque! And the *Call* of September 30th, in which it gives the postoffice list of abortionists whose advertisements can not go through the mail, and in which is expressed all kinds of hope that "something will be done" by the medical societies to stop the game of crime, the excessively virtuous *Call* of this particular date, contains the advertisements of not a few frauds and quacks! Is it to laugh or to weep? Can the *Call* be so wise and so virtuous in one office and so ignorant, careless or willing to participate in crime in another? Let us see what this altogether-so-virtuous *Call* is willing to take money for advertising. Passing by various and sundry laxatives with misleading worded advertisements, we come to the "mother's friend" that, if taken, will make becoming a mother quite a joy; to "Dr. Young and Dr. Chan Toa," who are "herb doctors" and can "restore dislocated bones"; to a scarey advertisement directing you to

"listen to your stomach"; to "electra-vita" (another name for a fraud against which, under other names, the postoffice has issued several fraud orders); to "Dr. Jordan's museum of anatomy"; to "Dr. Field & Co.," one of the same stamp as "Dr. Taylor & Co.," in which Arberry was caught; to "Dr. Morel," a scandalous fraud; to "Dr. H. G. Martin" who can cure "weakness." On thou virtuous *Call!* What are we medical men going to do to stop the frauds and the criminals that you newspapers build up and support and whose dirty blood money you so willingly take? Go to! Take the crime-tainted money; put it in your pocket; enjoy it, if you can, but quit this hypocritical cant, this disgusting pose of honest virtue, this public indignation at the crimes you privately participate in! Be as the *Examiner!*

And now comes a new one breaking into the Viavi territory, or some similar domain of fakery.

Pond's tampons were originally presented to physicians to be ordered **PONDS TAMPONS.** by them or used by them and they were advertised in this *JOURNAL* and in the *Journal A. M. A.* But things have changed. A physician living in Berkeley has sent to the *JOURNAL* a little booklet which reached his wife some time in September, sent in an ordinary unsealed envelope. It is quite an interesting piece of "literature"; the title is "Health, Strength and Beauty—A Home Treatment within the reach of all women—Pond's Tampons." You see the name too has changed; it used to be Pond's tampons, when they were put out by Pond, a druggist of Berkeley. Herein we learn that the tampons should be used "In place of the objectionable examination, where a woman must dress and go to the doctor's office, then wait her turn, then loosen her clothes, and lie upon the table . . . "Many (women) are advised to have serious operations performed, when they could easily be relieved and cured by using local applications properly applied." Of course, the only way they can be "properly applied" is by means of Pond's tampons! There follows a list of diseases which is quite a nice little list for a beginning patent medicine of this kind. "The improvement in fibroid tumors has astonished physicians more than any other condition." Probably! "Pelvic Peritonitis. Use Pond's Tampons D until pain is relieved, then A." "Gonorrhea (or Clap). Use Pond's Tampons F." And so on. Will any of our members hereafter use these things and thus help the "company" to boost its wares into the market for popular consumption? Are there not enough such patent medicine concerns teaching the public to mistreat themselves now? Many phrases sound as though they had been taken from the "literature" of the Viavi fake.

Some time ago the *JOURNAL* was asked whether it was true that the Insurance Commissioner had refused to allow the Physicians'

PHYSICIANS' DEFENSE CO. Defense Co., of Fort Wayne, Indiana, to do any more business in this state. Enquiry at the office of the Insurance Commissioner, at that

time, disclosed the fact that such an embargo had been placed upon future business of this company until such time as it complied with the insurance laws of the state; presumably it is still on. The *JOURNAL* was requested to make this fact public. The matter was discussed and no mention of it made in the *JOURNAL* for the reason that it was thought that, to publish the matter, would look as though the State Society, which had recently undertaken to defend its members against malpractice suits, was trying to "knock" an insurance company writing policies for defense. The reason why we now publish anything on the subject is because this company has been writing too many letters to our members and making too many statements that are not so. One of our members, quite justly believing that the protection offered by the State Society is ample, declined to renew a policy he had held in this company. He received a letter dated Fort Wayne, September 19th, urging him to continue his policy. This letter is in places very misleading, to say the least. To quote from it: "With all due regard for the efforts of your Society, the fact still remains that it is not in a position to adequately protect your interests." That is not true; the Society is in a position to "adequately protect your interests" and is doing so right along. There is a great deal, in this long letter, about what a wonderful legal department the company has and how no other lawyers can possibly know so much. That is "popcock." Also, they talk a lot about preventing suits and intimate that the Society cannot do this; more "popcock"; we are doing it all the time. It does not look particularly well for a company, disqualified from doing further business in this state, to make such rash statements. All members will be fully defended in all malpractice suits. You need no other insurance.

The search for tubercle bacilli in sputum by the commonly employed cover-slip method has, on the whole, yielded good results; but difficulty of demonstration in many cases has emphasized

TUBERCLE BACILLI IN SPUTUM.

the need for better methods for the concentration of the bacilli, especially when the organisms discharged in the sputum are few in number, or when the physical characters of the expectorated material is such as to make it difficult to pick out a satisfactory portion for examination. With a realization of these difficulties fully in mind, a number of investigators (Biedert, Mühlhauser, Czaplewski, Moeller, etc.) have attempted to devise methods by which sputum might be rendered non-tenacious, thin and liquid in consistency, so that the tubercle bacilli could be set free and concentrated. These "enriching" methods have usually included the "homogenization" of the sputum by means of an alkaline solution as in the old Biedert method. On the other hand, digestive ferments have been employed with practically the same objects in view, or again, in some instances the mechanical breaking up of the tenacious sputum has been accomplished by the use of glass beads. While these methods have yielded excellent results under